

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7445
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS AFL-CIO

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLAB, ICFTU, SF
SUBJECT: TUCSA MINI CONFERENCE

1. THE TRADE UNION COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA IS PLANNING TO HOLD AN UNUSUAL CLOSED CONFERENCE IN TWO WEEKS TIME IN JOHANNESBURG. THE "SPECIAL MINI-CONFERENCE" IS REPORTEDLY BEING CALLED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT FAR-REACHING SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHANGES ARE IN THE OFFING TO WHICH TRADE UNIONS WILL NEED TO ADAPT.

2. THIS WILL BE THE FIRST UNSCHEDULED GENERAL MEETING OF TUCSA SINCE THE 1967 CRISIS WHICH LED TO THE EXPULSION OF BLACK UNIONS UNTIL THEIR READMISSION ON A PARALLEL BASIS IN 1975. UNLIKE TUCSA'S ANNUAL MEETINGS WHICH ARE HELD IN SEPTEMBER,
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THIS ONE WILL BE CLOSED TO THE PRESS.

3. WHILE DETAILS OF THE MEETING ARE BEING TIGHTLY HELD, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT TWO PROMINENT OUTSIDERS WILL BE THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS. MINISTER OF LABOR S.P. "FANNIE" BOTHA WILL OPEN THE CONFERENCE WITH A DISCUSSION OF GOVERNMENT ATTITUDES TOWARD LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND "OTHER IMPORTANT CONTEMPORARY

ISSUES". JOHN BARRETT, DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, WILL REPORTEDLY ANALYZE EXTERNAL PRESSURES FOR SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CHANGE.

4. TUCSA SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT ANDRE MALHERBE IS TO ANALYZE THE ACTIVITIES OF DOMESTIC PRESSURE GROUPS AND "DEVELOPMENTS WHICH CAN BE REASONABLY EXPECTED ... AS A RESULT OF GOVERNMENT INITIATED ACTION".

5. COMMENT: SINCE ONE OF THE STATED OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING WILL BE "TO DETERMINE ACTION NEEDED BY TUCSA AND ITS MEMBERS TO COPE WITH LIKELY FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS", IT IS BELIEVED THAT DISCUSSION WILL FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS AND THE ICFTU ANTI-APARTHEID CAMPAIGN. OBSERVERS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN LABOR SCENE, SUCH AS STEVE FRIEDMAN OF THE WEEKLY FINANCIAL MAIL, ARE CONCERNED OVER THE IMPLICATIONS FOR GROUPS ASSISTING THE BLACK TRADE UNION MOVEMENT.
GOLINO

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED AFL-CIO.

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